REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the September 14, 2006 telephone conference with Applicant's undersigned attorney. In the telephone conference, the Examiner agreed to acknowledge all of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 10, 2004.

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because the reference characters have been used with different components. Accordingly, Applicant corrected this informality and now defines the circled "1" and "2" reference numerals as 7 and 8, respectively. An arrow head is also added to FIG. 5, as suggested by the Examiner. For this reason, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as lacking utility. More specifically, the Examiner objects to the data management unit performing exclusive control. In response, Applicant deleted "exclusive" from the claim language, and requests withdrawal of the rejection on this basis.

Claims 1 and 4-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. With respect to claim 4, Applicant deleted "exclusive" from claim 1, and cancelled claim 4. Claim 5 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the plurality of file systems and other file system. Similarly, claim 6 is amended to provide antecedent basis for the network connection servers.

9

With respect to claim 7, Applicant amended the claim to delete "exclusive" from the claim and to provide antecedent basis for "one network" and "another network" of a plurality of independent network environments. With respect to "file units" in claims 1, 7, and 9, Applicant further clarified that file units are "on a file-by-file basis." Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, lines 9-15 of Applicant's specification.

With respect to claim 11, "said another file" is now defined as "said another file system." Claim 12 is also amended to provide antecedent basis for "said service system." For all of the above reasons, withdrawal of the §112 rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakakura (JP Publication No. 2000-276457), and further in view of Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,155). In response, Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 7 to clarify that a first data management unit and a second data management unit set an indication to show that a file is in use in a file management table before reading or writing the file in a data area, and reset an indication in the file management table after reading or writing the file in the database area to perform control of the file, and respectfully traverses the rejection as it applies to the amended claims.

Sakakura is directed to a data sharing computer system and client. Sakakura attempts to obtain the service copy server that shares data between different networks, such as an intra-enterprise network and the internet. Sakakura teaches using a

LAN-side server 103 connected to a LAN 101 at an internet side server 105 connected to the internet 102 to share data on the shared disk 104 for which they use a bus 106. However, Sakakura fails to disclose or suggest a first data management unit and a second data management unit that set indicators to allow transfer of stored files of a data area on a file-by-file basis.

Wang is directed to a method for concurrency control in a system having both pessimistic and optimistic transactions. Wang is merely cited by the Examiner as teaching a lock table. However, Wang fails to disclose or suggest a first data management unit and a second data management unit that set an indication to show that a file is in use in a file management table before reading or writing the file in a data area, and resetting the indication in the file management table after reading or writing the file in the database area to perform control of the file.
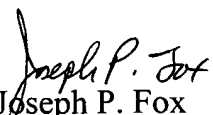
In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention is now amended to call for a first data management unit connected to one network of the plurality of independent networks, and a second data management unit connecting to another network of the plurality of independent networks. The first and second data management units set an indication to indicate that a file is in use in the file management table before reading or writing of the file in the data area. The first and second data management units also reset the in use indication in the file management table after reading or writing the file in the data area to control file transfer between networks.

11

In the present invention, the stored files to be transferred from the data area between networks are transferred in file units (*i.e.*, on a file-by-file basis). In order to transfer on a file-by-file basis, the file management table stores a use indication and a file unit. The first and second data management units set an indication in the file management table to indicate whether a file is in use before reading or writing the file to a film in the data area. The first and second data management units also reset the in use indication in the film management table after reading or writing the file in the data area to have control of the file being transferred. Since the cited reference failed to disclose or suggest these features, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-12.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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<u>In the Drawings</u>:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGs. 5 and 6. Annotated Sheets showing the changes are attached along with the Replacement Sheets.
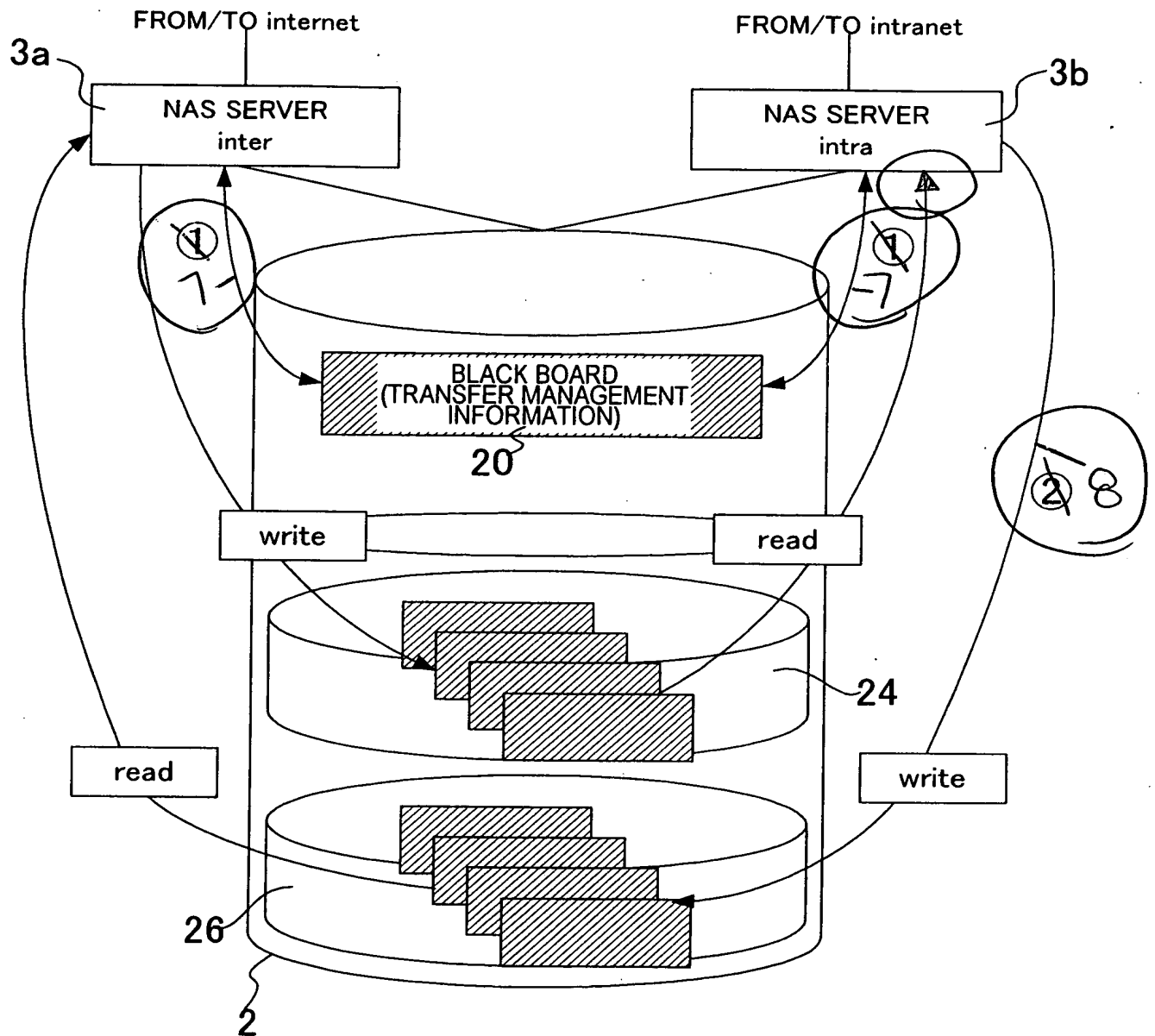
FIG. 5

FROM/TO internet

FROM/TO intranet

3a

3b

NAS SERVER
inter

NAS SERVER
intra

BLACK BOARD
(TRANSFER MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION)

20

write

read

24

read

write

26

2

FIG. 6

FROM/TO internet 5

FROM/TO intranet 6

3a

3b

NAS SERVER
inter

NAS SERVER
intra

read/write

read/write

BLACK BOARD
TRANSFER MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION

20

2

28

1